(d) the progress made thereon and by when the said project is likely to be completed indicating target if any, fixed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Periodic review of National Highway Development Project (NHDP) is being done and the works are mostly as per the targets.

(c) Total 123 contracts of value of Rs. 18063 crore are in progress on NHDP. Funds for NHDP are not allocated State-wise. An amount of Rs.4208 crore was released during the last three years to National Highways Authority of India for implementation of NHDP and some other projects.

(d) NHDP has total length of 13151 kms. comprising 5851 kms. of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and 7300 kms. of North-South & East-West Corridors (Corridors). 4-laning of 1063 kms. of GQ and 716 kms. of corridors has been completed. The entire NHDP is likely to be completed by December 2007.

Launch of Spy Satellite by PSLV

2730. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the first time our scientists have launched a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle carrying a Spy Satellite;

(b) whether it is reported to be a Technology Experiment Satellite to provide imagery with one metre resolution; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) India has launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) successfully five times so far. In the recent launch of PSLV-C3, India has launched successfully Technology Experiment Satellite (TES). It has also launched two small satellites, PROBA of Belgium and BIRD of Germany into precise orbit.

(b) Yes, Sir. Technology Experiment Satellite (TES) has a camera with 1 m. spectral resolution.

(c) The main objective of the Technology Experiment Satellite was to develop and test a set of critical technologies to provide on-orbit demonstration

and validation of these technologies for future enhanced capability missions and also to provide hands-on experience in handling complex mission operations such as step and stare manoeuvres.

Shortcoming in Implementation of MPLAD Scheme

2731. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to observations made by the C&AG of India in his Audit Brochure 2001 found out that there were many shortcomings in the implementation of MPLAD Scheme under which a sum of Rs.3221 crores has been spent since its inception;

(b) if so, what are these short-comings;

(c) whether the Ministry's role was confined to providing resources only without enforcing its bonafide utilisation; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures planned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in their Report No. 3A of 2001 have pointed out certain instances of violation of Guidelines on MPLADS. Some of these are as follows :

(i) Execution of inadmissible works,

(ii) Sanctions of works for commercial and private organisations.

(iii) Irregular sanction of repair and maintenance works.

(iv) Purchases of stores.

(v) Expenditure on places of religious worship.

(vi) Expenditure on memorials.

(vii) Execution of works without recommendation of the MPs.

(c) and (d) Under the MPLAD Scheme, MPs recommend works to the concerned District Head who is to get them implemented by following the established procedure of the State Government. Funds are released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation directly to the District Head